

long-term efforts to combat this challenge.

Energy conservation is a vital component of reducing carbon emissions. Weatherization programs and the Energy Star program have been instrumental in reducing consumption. In 2011, Energy Star helped Americans reduce emissions by the equivalent of 41 million vehicles; and, during these tough times, it cut utility bills by \$23 billion.

As a result of the sequester, further progress on these programs is at risk. Research and development in clean-energy technologies are essential to reducing our dependence on oil and cutting emissions.

Sequestration's funding reductions threaten to slow developments in solar and advanced battery technology. Sadly, my Republican colleagues have been reluctant to even debate further action to address climate change.

That is one more reason why we cannot afford to sit by and do nothing while sequestration reduces the effectiveness of the programs we already have in place that are part of the climate change solution.

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HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, despite blocked attempts to fully repeal the so-called Affordable Care Act, this law is doomed to collapse under the weight of its own flawed design. Just last week, Democratic Senator MAX BAUCUS of Montana, a key architect of the Affordable Care Act, referred to the administration's signature health care law as a looming "train wreck." Another promise that was used to force passage of the President's health law was broken in February, when the administration's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that it would stop enrolling people with preexisting conditions due to funding constraints.

This week, the House will vote on the Helping Sick Americans Now Act, which would extend access to those with preexisting conditions. The coverage would be funded by eliminating the Prevention and Public Health Fund, a program under ObamaCare identified as rife with mismanagement and taxpayer abuse.

While full repeal would have been less costly and painful, the gradual failure of the Affordable Care Act is inflicting significant pain on families, businesses, and our economy. Don't take my word. Just listen to the Senator from Montana. His recent remarks aren't far off the mark.

HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Reflecting on the events of last week, I want to speak about some very important homeland security issues.

I want to publicly thank the outstanding law enforcement, FBI, and others who worked on the tragedy of 9/11, as we proceed as Members of Congress to further investigate how not to allow an incident like that to happen again.

But the one point I want to make very clearly and that has been said over and over by Members and certainly by leaders of the administration: this does not and should not stop comprehensive immigration reform. We should proceed with regular order because you need to know who's in this country.

Also, I offer my deepest sympathy to those in West, Texas, but make the point that we have to have a nexus between chemical plants and those who hold those kinds of hazardous materials. As well, we need a mechanism of reporting to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security a security plan and a process to avoid events such as the horrific tragedy that occurred. I will soon be introducing such legislation, and I certainly believe that it is our role to intervene and to secure the homeland.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, April is National Autism Awareness Month. Autism affects the lives of 2 million Americans. It's the fastest-growing developmental disability, in terms of new cases.

In my home State of Minnesota, 1 in every 67 children is diagnosed with autism. Minnesota is also home to some great institutions like the Holland Center and the Minnesota Autism Center, which serve Minnesota families with educational and rehabilitation services for children with autism. Minnesota health care professionals are also on the front lines in the search to discover the cause of the high rate of autism among Minnesota's Somali population.

While there's currently no medical detection or cure for autism, this disorder is treatable. Studies show that the early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, I was a cosponsor of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act last Congress, and we must continue the fight and the effort to ensure those with autism get the attention and care they need.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of the innocent men, women, and children who perished in 1915 during the Armenian genocide.

Each year, the United States Congress has the opportunity to stand on the side of justice and recognize the Armenian genocide. Such action would fortify America's moral standing in the family of nations and send a strong message to our NATO ally, Turkey, that it must examine the dark chapters of its past and the discriminatory impulses of its present.

Turkey has repeatedly thwarted efforts by Congress and successive administrations to recognize the Armenian genocide by threatening all manner of retaliation should recognition be accorded. I submit that we do no favors to Turkey by acquiescing in its cynical campaign.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in 2015, it is time for the United States to formally recognize this tragic chapter in world history and to bring some measure of peace and healing to those of Armenian descent.

CITY OF FREMONT RECOGNIZED FOR NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY COMPETITION

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. This Thursday, the city of Fremont will be one of three cities nationwide to be recognized with the City Award as part of the Make a Difference Day competition.

The Make a Difference Day competition is a national day of volunteering held each year on the third Saturday of October. Fremont has participated in this competition for the past 10 years. Last year alone, 1,300 residents in Fremont participated in 76 projects across the city to clean up and improve our streets and make our community much, much better.

On Thursday, Fremont residents Suzanne Shenfil, Debra Watanuki, and Christine Beitsch will be presented with the award on behalf of the city of Fremont. Fremont will also be awarded \$10,000 to benefit the Fremont Family Resource Center, which offers many services such as child care information, adult information and employment services, and educational programs.

I am proud of Fremont and all of the participants in Make a Difference Day for their inspirational work to improve our neighborhoods. Together, each individual contribution builds a stronger and more sustainable community for everyone's future.